Manitoba Pork Council
HORIZONS
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Maple Leaf Centralizes in Manitoba

In mid-October, Maple Leaf Foods Inc. announced that it was restructuring its protein operations. Making a strong commitment to Manitoba, the company has decided to consolidate the majority of its hog operations in Brandon.

Maple Leaf will be moving all of its fresh pork processing operations to its Brandon primary processing plant, closing many of its plants elsewhere in the country. The Brandon plant will become Maple Leaf's single pork manufacturing facility and will be expanded to include a full double shift by 2009. This will result in economic spin-offs for both Brandon and Manitoba.

Manitoba Pork Council Chairman Karl Kynoch says the move to choose Brandon as the centre of its hog operations is a clear signal that Manitoba is recognized as the leader in the pork industry in Canada.

"This is excellent news for our industry," says Kynoch. "It confirms that our pork industry in Manitoba is healthy, sustainable and here for the long-term and that Manitoba has become the Canadian leader in pork production."

Manitoba is by far the largest pig-producing province and pig-exporting province in Canada, with 29 per cent of national pig production in 2005. The Manitoba pork industry contributes millions of dollars to the provincial economy each year. The value of pig production topped $1.02 billion in 2005, making the hog industry the largest source of farm cash receipts of any agricultural commodity sold in Manitoba.

According to Maple Leaf, the company will continue to be a significant buyer of hogs to fulfill its primary processing requirements. Maple Leaf expects it will take three years to implement its new strategy of focusing growth in the value-added fresh and further processed meats and meals business.

As for its other plants, Maple Leaf says it expects to wind down operations at the Marion Street plant in Winnipeg to coincide with the addition of a second shift in Brandon, which is expected to start in late 2007/early 2008 and be fully operational by 2009. Because the company expects to meet all of its fresh pork requirements out of Brandon, Maple Leaf says its goal is to transition the Warman Road plant to another type of manufacturing facility.

To producers, Maple Leaf says it will honour all contracts and continue to be a significant buyer of hogs. Looking ahead, the company says its requirements for hogs will increase once the second shift at Brandon is in place.

As for its other plants across Canada, Maple Leaf stressed that it will transition its pork processing operations to Brandon and expects to concentrate the majority of its hog operations in Manitoba due to the proximity to the Brandon facility.

"The pig industry is by far Manitoba's most important agricultural sector," says Kynoch. "As Manitobans, we should be proud of the fact that we have such a strong industry and that there are a lot of value-added opportunities for people right here at home."

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Chairman's Viewpoint

Manitoba Pork Council goes to Ottawa

By Karl Kynoch, Chairman, Manitoba Pork Council

Building relationships with government officials and educating them on the issues affecting our industry are important steps to raise the profile of the pork industry in Manitoba and have an impact when it comes to decision-making time.

In mid-October, Council GM Andrew Dickson and I traveled to Ottawa to meet with Minister of Agriculture Chuck Strahl. We had a full agenda for the short meeting we were granted. Trade relations, the development of feed grains for the hog sector and disaster insurance were the three main issues we wanted to bring to the federal minister's attention.

U.S. trade is critical to the success of the Manitoba pork industry. In 2005, we sent 3.5 million weanlings down south. This year, we expect that number to grow to about 4 million. I don't think many people outside of our industry realize the significance of the U.S. market. We are reliant on the U.S. border being open and any loss of this market would have a very negative impact on our industry. That's why we have made a concerted effort over the last few years to boost our trade relations with the U.S. In January and February, we are again going down to Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota and Nebraska to talk with producers and build Canada-U.S. relations.

We spoke with Minister Strahl and his staff about our efforts in the U.S. and the fact that we have been working with the ag representative at the Canadian embassy in Minneapolis. We encouraged the Canadian government to keep up the good work they are already doing down there and expand those efforts to protect a very significant market. Anything the Canadian government can do to help with trade advocacy down south is welcome news. After all, this is a North American industry, not Canada vs. the U.S.

We also discussed the development of feed grains to serve the hog sector. This is a win-win situation for everyone. If the Canadian government spends money on research to develop new feed grains, it will not only help livestock producers, it will give grain farmers expanded opportunities as well. We stressed that this is a very positive way to spend money to help all ag sectors in the long-term.

The third main issue we addressed in our meeting was disaster insurance. It's very important that the federal government understands the need for market collapse insurance. If a major disease surfaces in the hog sector, it could be a disaster for our entire industry. We do not want diseased pigs collapsing the whole market, but it could happen. Within 48 hours of an outbreak, we would have to kill 10,000 pigs a day simply because we do not have the feeder barn capacity to hold the animals.

Producers need to know what the floor price would be in the event of a market collapse. What would the federal government do in terms of price protection? We encouraged Minister Strahl and his government to do some work on this very important issue. It is particularly sensitive for Manitoba producers. While Canada exports 50 per cent of our production, Manitoba exports a whopping 85 per cent.

While we were in Ottawa, we also took the opportunity to meet with two of our own Manitoba MPs. We met with Selkirk-Interlake MP James Bezan and Brandon-Souris MP Merv Tweed. Coming out of this meeting, we were encouraged at the level of knowledge these MPs have of the ag sector. We were pleasantly surprised to find out both of them are well aware of the key issues we face as producers and as an industry.

The purpose of our visit was to make all of these elected representatives aware of the issues we face in Manitoba. It was a good opportunity to have some open discussion. And it is our hope that the next time Minister Strahl is in a meeting and one of these issues comes up, he will recall our discussions and our views will be counted.

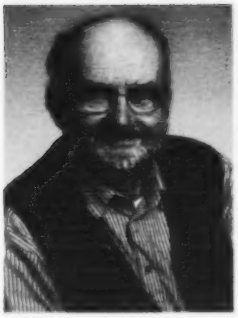
Government relations are an ongoing, long-term investment. It takes both time and effort to get issues moved up to the top of the agenda. We have to continue and enhance our efforts to make sure the voice of Manitoba pork producers is heard in Ottawa and here at home.

IMPORTANT REMINDER!

The deadline for Fall manure application, in accordance with annual manure management plans, is November 10th. If this applies to you and if you have extenuating circumstances that require an extension, contact your local Manitoba Conservation office.

Director's Profile

The eighth in a series of Board of Director member profiles. Meet Ben Hofer, Director of District 8.



Q. Where and when were you born, when were you married and do you have any children?

A. I was born in 1944 at Iberville Colony in Baie St. Paul, Manitoba near Elie. In 1947, the colony split and my family and I moved to Grosse Isle where we formed Rock Lake Colony, a daughter colony, where I still live today. My wife Marion and I were married in 1971. We have six children – Loretta, Raymond, Larry, Marta, Jonathan and Ivan – who are between the ages of 16 and 28. We also have six grandchildren.

Q. What is your farming history?

A. My father was a hog man, so I grew up farming. Farming has always been a part of my life. I finished school in Grade 10 and have been farming full-time since I was 15 years old.

Q. Have you ever worked off farm?

A. Only coming to Manitoba Pork Council meetings! By trade, I am an electrician, but I have farmed on the colony all my life. I am now the General Manager of Rock Lake Colony.

Q. How long have you been involved with Manitoba Pork Council and what positions have you held?

A. I was elected to serve as a Director of Manitoba Pork Council in 2002? and have been a director for the past five years. Before that, I was a founding director of Manitoba Egg Producers and served on that board for many years.

Q. How much time did you spend on Council business in 2005?

A. Most of my time with Manitoba Pork Council is spent in meetings. I would say I spent at least 20 days on Council business in 2005.

Q. What is your favourite part of serving as a director?

A. I really like the interaction with fellow producers. My district is not geographic – I represent one of the two Hutterite Brethrens in the province. The interaction with other producers from across the province can make a real difference in the hog industry.

Q. Where do you see the industry in five years?

A. I see the industry going high-tech in order to compete. We are about to introduce phase feeding in our brand new barn at Rock Lake. Almost everything in the barn is automated.

Q. If you could have done anything in your farming life, what would it have been?

A. I think I would do much the same. We built the new barn as fast as we could!

Amazing Ag Adventure

Almost 1,200 students from schools in Winnipeg and the surrounding district spent a full day learning about agriculture at the "Amazing Agriculture Adventure". Developed and coordinated by Agriculture in the Classroom-Manitoba, Amazing Ag Adventure was held over three days at Red River Exhibition Park in mid-September.

"The exposure for many of our students is the key as many of them have never been exposed to any aspects of agriculture."

Students in Grades 4 and 5 visited various stations to learn about animals, crops, weather and machines. The interactive activities engaged the students, as well as teachers and parent volunteers, who came away with a new awareness of the importance of agriculture in our daily lives.

"It exceeded my expectations - expert presenters - very knowledgeable - best field trip I have ever attended."

"The presenters were approachable and so knowledgeable - even the younger children ages 3 to 9 were able to understand."

Amazing Agriculture Adventure, is an annual event held at Red River Exhibition Park. With a waiting list of schools who want to attend, the event continues to grow every year.

Manitoba Farm Animal Council hosts "Touch the Farm", a farm animal display of pigs, dairy cows, sheep, laying hens, meat chickens and beef cattle. Many students have never seen or touched a live farm animal and their excitement and enthusiasm is infectious. Students also have the opportunity to view bee colonies, see farm equipment such as a sprayer, tractor, baler and combine, and participate in activities such as grinding wheat and the Canola Crush.

One of the highlights of the day is an old time farm auction, complete with auctioneers. Cookies are the auction items and the bidding is loud and lively. All in all, it's a busy day!

Traceability Update

Tattoos required on Live Animal Exports Shipped to U.S. Slaughter

Manitoba Pork Council is committed to develop a Canadian Swine Traceability System. As part of that ongoing commitment, MPC is now requesting the use of slaughter tattoos (i.e., shoulder-slap tattoos) on all live animal exports shipped to slaughter in the U.S.

This move will standardize slaughter requirements for swine traceability across Canada, which may help satisfy any future traceability requirements developed by the U.S. for imported swine from Canada.

Tattoos are unique for each production site, which means they are 'premises-specific' and are to be used on all hogs when being shipped for slaughter. This includes market hogs, culled sows and boars, lightweight hogs going for slaughter and now, live animal exports going for U.S. slaughter. Because tattoos are specific to each farm location, they are an extremely valuable tool for quickly tracking animal movements in the event of serious animal health emergencies.

Manitoba hog producers began adopting new slaughter tattoo numbers earlier this year. The initiative does not apply to the identification of weanlings, feeder pigs or any animals not intended for imminent slaughter. Producers who have not registered for new slaughter tattoo numbers are encouraged to contact Manitoba Pork Council.

Questions about tattoo and farm premises registration, as well as Manitoba's involvement in Canada's Swine Traceability System, can be directed to Jeff Clark at (204) 237-7447.

CAFA - National Network of Farm Advisors

The Canadian Association of Farm Advisors (CAFA) is a non-profit, professional organization dedicated to helping farm businesses by increasing the skills and knowledge of farm advisors. The need for an organization like CAFA is greater today than a decade ago due to the increased complexity of today's farm operations and the imminent transfer of farms to the next generation.

Farm businesses and families are increasingly turning to professional farm advisors for timely and reliable information. Having access to the right professional or team of professionals is imperative as advisors are often one of the main influencers in management decisions. Having access to advisors with a keen knowledge and awareness of the unique planning challenges in agriculture can mean the difference between a successful operation and one that isn't -- as well as the future potential of the next generation of farmers.

In 2001, CAFA was formed as the first and only organization of its kind for farm advisors in North America. CAFA members include accountants, lawyers, bankers, agrologists, financial advisors, insurance agents, home economists and interested farmers among others. With the exception of agrologists, CAFA members are individuals whose formal post-secondary training has been in an area of expertise other than agriculture. Yet, the agriculture industry requires these non-agricultural skilled advisors to assist the industry in moving ahead.

One of CAFA's main goals is to impart knowledge of agriculture to the professionals. Combining knowledge of the farming industry and the knowledge of the professions enables advisors to deal with the farm business and family issues in a holistic manner and arrive at realistic and viable solutions for their clients. CAFA accomplishes this through educational programs, materials, seminars, conferences, web site content and networking at monthly chapter meetings.

What does CAFA mean for farm businesses and families?

- Guarantees higher quality of advice received from farm advisors;
- Provides opportunities to easily access farm advisors locally or in larger cities;
- Educates producers to use only qualified farm advisors;
- Protects them against unprofessional advisors by establishing Codes of Standards and Ethics, disciplinary procedures for enforcement of the codes, required levels of experience/ educational degree/diploma/ designation, and establishing a professional certification;
- Provides access to the educational materials, seminars, lecture and conferences;
- Provides opportunities to network with professionals, producers and their families regarding topics of common interests such as farm business management, human relations management, and topics specific to the technical side of the interdisciplinary subject area.

To learn more about CAFA and how it can help you, go to **www.cafanet.com**.

Feed Formulation Identified as Key to Lowering Manure Phosphorus Levels

Farmscape is a two-minute radio broadcast heard daily, Monday to Friday, on CKLQ Radio Brandon, CFRY Radio Portage La Prairie, CJWW Radio Saskatoon, and CKSW Radio Swift Current. Here's a recent broadcast:

A researcher with the University of Manitoba suggests the formulation of feed, in conjunction with other techniques, holds the key to reducing the amount of unutilized phosphorus that passes through the pig ending up in the environment.

Phosphorus is a key mineral nutrient in the swine diet, contributing to the formation and maintenance of bone and several other important metabolic processes. Unfortunately much of the phosphorus in grains is tied up as phytate, a form that's unavailable to the animal, and it ends up in the manure creating potential environmental concerns. The amount of unavailable phosphorous will depend on the grain being fed.
Dr. Martin Nyachoti, an associate professor with the University of Manitoba's Department of Animal Science, says several approaches including the development of grains with lower levels of this unavailable phosphorus and feed supplements which help the animal utilize the mineral are available but he maintains these techniques need to be used in conjunction with feed formulation.

Clip-Dr. Martin Nyachoti-University of Manitoba

What we are trying to do, and hopefully we'll start this research at the U of M, is that we would like to get a handle of the availability of phosphorus in different feed ingredients. The other thing that we would like to do is we would like to get an idea of the phosphorus requirement of the main genotypes that are used in this province.

There's really two sides of the equation. There's the feed formulation. There's the requirement by the animal. So you need to know what the requirement is so that you can balance the diet for the two. Those are the efforts that I think we need to focus on.

We also need to evaluate different feed ingredients, new feed ingredients with a higher available phosphorus. They need to be evaluated and then see how they can be utilized in practical feed formulations.

Dr. Nyachoti notes, in places where diets have been formulated properly, techniques aimed at reducing the level of phosphorus remaining in the manure have been very effective. For Farmscape.Ca, I'm Bruce Cochrane.

MANITOBApork COUNCIL

Farmscape is a Wonderworks Canada production and is distributed courtesy of Manitoba Pork Council and Sask Pork. Visit our website at **www.farmscape.ca**

Sask PORK

Upcoming Events

Manitoba Conservation Districts Association Annual Conference
December 5 & 6, 2006
Keystone Centre, Brandon, MB

Hog & Poultry Days
December 13 & 14, 2006
Winnipeg Convention Centre, Winnipeg. MB

Submissions welcome!

If you have details on upcoming events, such as meetings, seminars and conferences, that would be of interest to hog producers and the pork industry, email them to kleclerc@manitobapork.com or call 237-7447, and we'll run them in the next issue of Horizons.

Remember!

Tune in to Great Tastes of Manitoba on Saturday, November 18 to see MPC's own Marlene McDonald cook up some delicious pork recipes in "Pork with Panache". The show airs at 6:30 p.m. on CKY-TV on Saturdays.

Promotions

2006 United Way Campaign Kick-off, September 22 – Pork Council chefs "shared in the spirit" by serving up Pork on a Bun to nearly 1,300 team members and volunteers. A total of 58 teams attempted to be the fastest to pull a 90,000 lb. Hercules CC-130 cargo aircraft 50 feet. United Way of Winnipeg represents over 90 agencies serving to improve lives and build community by reducing poverty, providing opportunities and strengthening neighbourhoods. Pork Council staff held their own United Way campaign October 16 to 20 to help raise funds towards the agency's overall goal of $14.7 million.

2006 FMG Dragon Boat Festival, September 8-10 – The endless enthusiasm of the fearless Hog's Breath team gave paddlers a spirited edge for the third consecutive year. With an average race time of 2:51.94, Hog's Breath, made up of Council staff, family members and colleagues, triumphed over 78 other competitors, including the Maple Leaf Hammators. This year's festival included 151 teams and raised over $300,000 for cancer research in Manitoba. Thanks to everyone involved for their time and muscle power and to our valued sponsor, the Studios of Wendy J., Inc.

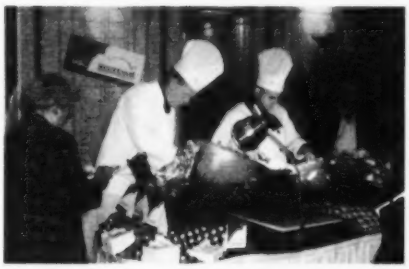
"Made in Manitoba" at St. Vital Mall

"Made in Manitoba" was the theme for this year's annual commodity display at St. Vital Centre, which took place in September. This annual event provided an excellent opportunity for mall visitors to meet home economists and staff from the various commodity groups, ask questions and pick up resource materials. The event also featured stage presentations on healthy eating, and specifically on packing healthy school lunches – the perfect subject for back-to-school shoppers.

The mall was also a great venue to launch our new resource "All About Pork", which was hot off the press. With resources for adults and stickers and other handouts for the children, the display continues to be a popular fall event at the mall.

Cuisine Canada 2006

Food writers and other "foodies" from across Canada gathered in Winnipeg from September 16 to 19 for the Cuisine Canada National Culinary Conference.



A "who's who" of food editors, food stylists, communications specialists and others interested in all things food-related spent several days at speaker sessions, and of course, enjoying a wonderful variety of sensational meals, exquisitely prepared by local chefs.

The theme of the conference was "The Future of Food" – from Wild Ingredients to Molecular Gastronomy. Speaker sessions ran the gamut from regional cuisine, knowing our food supply and functional foods to successful restaurants, culinary tourism and trends in food writing.

A special event at the MTS Centre called The Manitoba Marketplace featured a sampling of a variety of Manitoba foods. The Marketplace was open to the public and about 400 attendees were able to sample many Manitoba products, including Berkshire pork and Omega 3 pork.

The meals were the highlight of the conference, which included a gala dinner at the Delta hotel prepared by Delta chefs from across Canada, a wild prairie sunset dinner at the Fort Whyte Centre and a multicultural mystery tour at four of Winnipeg's ethnic restaurants.

Manitoba Pork Council sponsored a barbecue lunch, featuring a roasted whole hog. Conference attendees raved that this conference was "the best ever" – a tribute to the local organizing committee and sponsors. Marlene McDonald and Susan Szoke were the fortunate staffers who attended and have volunteered to attend any similar conferences in the future!

Manitoba Pork Council CLASSIFIED

November 2006

FOR SALE

*New 25 hp diesel compact utility 4x4 tractor, shutle shift, 540/1000 pto, dual hydraulics, 3pt. $8,300 w/loader $2,000, attachments available; New 82 hp diesel tractor MFD parking motor, cab ac/heat, 3pt, 540/1000 pto, shutle shift, dual hyrdraulics $32,000, loader and attachments available; New 3pt, 8' back hoe, $4,995. Call Steve (204) 746-0599.

*JD 843 corn head, good condition, $9,500; 13X70 FarmKing, mechanical swing out, $8,000; 1993 MF200 25' swather, new pickup reel, bean kit never used, $24,500. Call Kevin (204) 626-3342.

*3 galvanized 14 metric ton chore time feed bins; 40x24" Choretime fibre glass fans,w/ plastic hoods & steel motor mounts; 200 pcs 3'x9' concrete waffle gang slats. Call (204) 825-0178.

*46' reffer trailer which has been converted to house hogs, complete w/electrical ventilation & heating; 55' conveyer pto drive. Call (204) 845-2436 or cell 748-8303.

**4 comp, 5hp mixmill with 3/4 horse unloading motor. $800 OBO. Call (204) 248-2130.

**Mechanical parts from 1980 Ford Bus. 4spd auto trans, air brake system, tires, batteries, damaged detroit H engine, etc. $1,000 for all or $50 & up for single items; New roll of 2" flex auger, $50; Bait stations for rodents, used on winter, never near pigs. Rat size $20, Mouse size $5 each. Call (204) 436-3201.

**31' Versatile offset tandem disc. $9,000; Melroe 115 Spray coupe with foam markers. $2,900; 300 & 500 gallon fuel tanks. $175 each; 8870 New Holland Genisis Tractor with 3300 hrs. $58,000; Polygrate flooring, 1x2' pcs, 350 sq'. $500; 1990 CaseIH 1682 axial flo pull type Combine, always shedded. $10,000; 2000 Triple E topaz, 27.5' 5th wheel camper w/slide out & fiberglass siding, always shedded, no gst. $25,000, OBO; 2 ton plastic premix bin. $750. Call (204) 825-7575.

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***1979 7721 JohnDeere PTO combine, air foil chaffer, in-cab controls, used on small acreage, always shedded & field ready, good condition. $6,700; IHC #75 PTO swather, 24' bat reel, always shedded, real good condition, $1,500. Call (204) 242-2014.

***Sierens nursery penning, 30 farrowing crates w/feeders and SS water lines; Kane nursery feeders, 14 doubles, 12 singles; 275,000 btu propane boiler, good condition; 4 construction heaters; Nursery flooring, good condition;40 creep bowls, 30 concrete 42" penning w/channel iron & gates; Boulet gestation slats & concrete feeders, good condition; 2000 psi PW w/cat pump & propane heat; 60 BetterAir fresh air inlets; plastic recirc duct w/fans; 12"-20" BetterAir fans w/hoods & covers; Cooling system time clocks; various fan controls & SS water lines. Call (204) 248-2208 or 723-0057.

***110V air inlet activator. $150; Barn fogger. $100. Call Mike (204) 865-2275.

***3, 10 metric tonnes ChoreTime feed bins. Call (204) 825-0178.

***Nobert 44' hog trailer, $10,000; 100 pcs of tenderfoot flooring, 24"x32"; 1, 4000 kgs BigDutchman mix tank. Call (204) 267-2342.

***4 tonne Friesen hopper bin w/ChoreTime feed system for 40' barn; 8 tonne Cypress Industries hog feeder, feeds from all sides; 3 single, 1 double, poly hog feeders; hog cage w/electronic scale. Call (204) 242-2124.

WANTED

*6'X5' X 2.5" high, self support tenderfoot flooring. Call (204) 526-5448.

*Poly bins & larger galvanizes or painted hopper bins, any size. Call Don at (204) 426-5547 or cell 326-0931.

PROPERTY

*550 sow to early wean operation, 92 farrowing crates, farrowing barn & gestation barn built in 2004. 4 woodframe barns w/metal clads. Large 3 bedroom bungalow, $790,000. Visit www.manitobafarms.net or call Adriaan (204) 371-6451.

**260 sow farrow to wean barn for rent; 625 head feeder barn for rent; both barns in Landmark. Call (204) 355-4572.

**Hog barns to be moved. L style barn built in 1990. 1st barn 103x41, 2nd barn 128x42. All in good condition w/new tin on roof & new siding. Comes with or without better air fans and inlets. Call (204) 248-2208.

LIVESTOCK

**50lb weanlings. 150/month. Call (204) 355-4572.

**50-65lb weanlings. 100-200/month. Call (204) 482-5368.

***Looking to buy Isoweans & weanlings, long term contracts. Call (204) 776-5558.

EMPLOYMENT

*Swine technician and 1 technical minded person needed for full time employment at Canmark Family Farming Ltd. in Roblin, MB. Housing available for suitable candidates. Fax resume to Rene Nielsen at (204) 937-4807 or email canfam@mts.net.

**Farm Manager wanted at Prairie Swine Centre's Elstow Research Farm located near Elstow, SK. Send resume & 3 letters of reference to Brian Andries, Box 21057 - 2105, 8th Street E, Saskatoon, SK, S7H 5N9, Phone (306) 257-3313 or fax (306) 955-2510, email: brian.andries@usask.ca.

**Sow Barn Manager wanted at Moffett Farms located in southern New Brunswick. Please email: resume@moffettfarms.com or fax (506) 433-5759.

***University of Manitoba's Department of Animal Science is seeking Agricultural Attendants 2 & 3 for the Glenlea Research Station's Swine Research Unit. See www.umanitoba.ca/employment for more info. Refer to posting # 500-199-06 & 500-200-06.

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Manitoba Pork Council
RESEARCH
November 2006

New research says water temperature affects lactation sow performance

by Martin Nyachoti, Ph.D.

Take Home Message

Results of a recent Korean study suggest that feeding chilled water (~15°C) to lactating sows housed in a high temperature environment may improve sow and litter performance. However, the energy required to chill the water should be considered in assessing the suitability of this approach for your production system.

Introduction

Water is an important nutrient for pork production. Of the different classes of swine, lactating sows require the largest amount of water per day to boost voluntary feed intake and support adequate milk production, which directly influence litter performance. Water consumption by swine is influenced by several factors like mineral content that influence its quality. A major goal in the farrowing barn is to increase feed intake so as to boost milk production, prevent excessive sow body weight loss and achieve prompt return to estrus after weaning. High temperatures in the farrowing barn may lead to heat stress in sows, which can reduce feed intake and milk yield, reduce litter performance, and increase weaning to estrus interval. To prevent such effects, industry uses various methods to keep the sow cool. Such methods include cold drips, snout cooling, cooling mats, etc.

	Water temperature (°C)		
	22	15	10
Sow feed intake, kg/day	3.82	5.36	5.29
Sow water intake, litres/day	31.2	38.1	38.9
Milk yield, kg/day	5.8	7.1	6.9
Weaning weight, kg/piglet	5.6	6.2	6.1

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New Research

A recent Korean study suggests that using chilled water may benefit lactating sow performance. In that study, lactating sows were offered water whose temperature was set at 10°C, 15°C or 22°C from farrowing to weaning. Temperature and relative humidity in the lactation barn averaged 29.5°C and 72%, respectively. Sow feed and water intake, milk production, litter weaning weight, and weaning to estrus interval were determined. The main findings of that study are summarized below:

Key Results

- Sows on chilled water consumed more feed and water and produced more milk than control (22°C water) sows;
- Piglets from sows on chilled water were heavier at weaning and grew faster than those from sows on control water;
- Weaning to rebreeding interval was the same for all sows but more sows from the chilled water group came into estrus within 5 days after weaning than those on control water.

Reference:

Jeon, JH, SC Yeon, YH Choi, HH Chang. 2006. Effects of chilled drinking water on the performance of lactating sows and litters during high ambient temperatures under farm conditions. Livestock Science (in press).

Contact Information:
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